

VIA FACSIMILE 703-872-9306

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No.: 9D-DW-19324

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A latch assembly for coupling a door to an apparatus, said latch assembly comprising:

a keeper comprising a biasing member and a head portion extending from said biasing member, said head portion comprising a catch and a lock release projection, said biasing member configured to bias said catch for engagement with the door;

a handle comprising a contact surface in slidable contact with said lock release projection, said handle selectively operable to uncouple the door from the apparatus; and

a handle retainer coupling said handle to the door; and

a handle hinge pin, said handle hinge pin coupling said handle to said handle retainer.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising a handle biasing member biasing said handle in a first position.

4. (original) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said handle biasing member in slidable contact with said handle retainer.

5. (previously presented) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said keeper head portion is formed integrally with said keeper biasing member.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 20 wherein said switch actuator is configured to actuate a switch from an open state to a closed state.

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8. (previously presented) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said handle retainer is fixedly attached to the door.

9. (previously presented) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said handle is rotatably coupled to the door with said hinge pin.

10. (currently amended) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said handle further comprises at least one pivot arm comprising at least one opening therein ~~matig~~ sized to receive said handle hinge pin.

11-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein providing a handle further comprises providing a handle including at least one substantially circular projection that is configured to frictionally ~~retain~~ attach the handle to the handle retainer.

14. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim ~~13~~ 21 wherein ~~connecting the handle to the handle retainer further comprises frictionally connecting the handle to the handle~~ retainer 21 wherein mounting a keeper further comprises mounting a keeper for engagement with a switch that enables operation of the dishwasher when the dishwasher door is closed.

15. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim ~~14~~ 21 wherein providing a handle retainer further comprises providing a handle retainer including at least one substantially circular projection that is configured to frictionally retain a hinge pin.

16. (previously presented) A dishwasher comprising:
a tub assembly;
a door hingedly coupled at first edge to said tub assembly; and
a latch assembly configured to secure said door to said tub assembly, said latch assembly comprising:

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a handle; and

a keeper is slidably coupled with said handle, said handle rotatable in a first direction, said keeper rotatable in a second direction opposite said first direction, said keeper including a biasing member and a head portion extending from said biasing member, said head portion including a catch and a lock release projection, said biasing member configured to bias said catch for engagement with said door.

17. (original) A latch assembly in accordance with claim 16 wherein said handle comprises a substantially planar surface, said keeper comprises a substantially planar surface in slidable contact with said handle planar surface.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said handle further comprises a contact surface in slidable contact with said release projection, said handle selectively operable to unsecure said door from said tub assembly.

20. (original) A latch assembly for coupling a door to an apparatus, said latch assembly comprising:

a keeper comprising a biasing member and a head portion extending from said biasing member, said head portion comprising a catch and a lock release projection, said biasing member configured to bias said catch for engagement with the door, said keeper head portion further comprising a switch actuator;

a handle comprising a contact surface in slidable contact with said lock release projection, said handle selectively operable to uncouple the door from the tub assembly; and

a handle retainer coupling said handle to the door.

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21. (currently amended) A method for assembling a door latch assembly for a dishwasher, the latch assembly for securing a dishwasher door to a dishwasher tub assembly, said method comprising:

providing a handle ~~having a substantially planar first contact surface;~~

providing a handle retainer;

providing a keeper;

mounting the keeper to the dishwasher tub;

mounting the handle retainer to the dishwasher door;

connecting the handle to the handle retainer; and

slidably coupling a the keeper having a substantially planar second contact surface to the handle ~~providing sliding contact between the first contact surface and the second contact surface~~ such that the handle is rotatable in a first direction and the keeper is rotatable in a second direction that is opposite the first direction.

22. (original) A latch assembly for coupling a door to an apparatus, said latch assembly comprising:

a keeper comprising a biasing member and a head portion extending from said biasing member, said head portion comprising a catch and a lock release projection, said biasing member configured to bias said catch for engagement with the door;

a rotatably mounted handle comprising a contact surface in slidable contact with said lock release projection, said handle selectively rotatable to uncouple the door from the apparatus; and

a handle retainer coupling said handle to the door.